

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6319

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MA

SUBJECT: LOS: BIOGRAPHIC SUPPORT FOR THE THIRD UN CONFERENCE
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

REF: STATE 67788

FOR D/LOS

1. NAMES MALAGASY DELEGATES TO LOS CONFERENCE CARACAS,
RECENTLY COMMUNICATED INFORMALLY BY MALAGASY FOREIGN MINIS-
TRY, PLUS EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW:

(A) CHIEF OF DELEGATION: FOREIGN MINISTER DIDIER RATSIRAKA.
DURING PAST TWO YEARS, RATSIRAKA HAS BEEN UNDISPUTED INITIATOR
IN MILITARY-TECHNOCRAT REGIME OF FOREIGN POLICY WHICH HAS OPENED
RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND PRC AND MOVED MADAGASCAR FIRMLY
INTO FOLD OF RADICAL "NON-ALIGNED STATES." RATSIRAKA IS NAVAL
COMMENDER, SURE OF HIMSELF AND SARCASTIC IN EXCELLENT FRENCH
AND VERY GOOD ENGLISH. EXCEPT WHERE U.S. AND MALAGASY INTERESTS
ARE IDENTICAL OR CLOSE FOR NATURAL REASONS, RATSIRAKA CAN BE
EXPECTED TO SIDE AGAINST US, PARTICULARLY IF ANYTHING LIKES OAU
OR NON-ALIGNED CONSENSUS DEVELOPS ON ANY ISSUE. HE WILL PROBABLY
NOT STAY MORE THAN FIRST FEW WEEKS IN CARACAS.

(B) JEAN BEMANANJARA, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT IN MINISTRY OF
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT (PUBLIC WORKS). BEMANANJARA IS NOT
KNOWN VERY WELL TO EMBASSY BUT IS APPARENTLY WELL-QUALIFIED
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TECHNICIAN UNDER A MINISTER WHO IS ONE OF U.S. BEST FRIENDS

IN MADAGASCAR. HE WILL HEAD DELEGATION AFTER DEPARTURE RATSIRAKA.

(C) HENRI RASOLONDRAIBE, NEWLY APPOINTED TO NUMBER TWO POSITION AT MALAGASY PERMANENT DELEGATION TO UN. RASOLONDRAIBE, IN HIS MOST RECENT POSITION AS CHIEF OF UN AND SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS SERVICE AT MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAS BECOME EXCELLENT FRIEND RANKING EMBASSY PERSONNEL. HE IS WELL VERSED ON TECHNICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES AT VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN WHICH MADAGASCAR HAS PARTICIPATED RECENTLY. HE KEEPS EXCELLENT TRACK OF POSITIONS OF PLAYERS. A DISCIPLINED DIPLOMAT, HE IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN OPPOSING LINE TRACED BY RATSIRAKA, BUT IS FRANK AND KNOWLEDGEABLE CONTACT WORTH CULTIVATING. HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.

(D) PROFESSOR JEAN RANJEVA, PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC LAW AT SCHOOL OF LAW, ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR. HE REPLACING MRS. RAKOTOARISON, WHO ATTENDED PREVIOUS LOS CONFERENCES, AS LEGAL EXPERT. RANJEVA SERVED AS LEGAL TECHNICAL COUNSELOR TO MALAGASY DELEGATION WHICH SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED DRASTIC REVISION FRANCO-MALAGASY ACCORDS LAST YEAR AND WHICH RESULTED IN MADAGASCAR'S WITHDRAWAL FROM FRANCH ZONE AND DEPARTURE FRENCH MILITARY. HE IS VOCALLY NATIONALISTIC. RANJEVA HAS BEEN FRIENDLY IN FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH USIS AND IS FAVORABLY KNOWN BY AMBASSADOR, BUT IS CAUTIOUS AND UNLIKELY TAKE INITIATIVE IN LOS MATTERS OR REVEAL MUCH TO OTHER DELEGATES. HE SPEAKS NO ENGLISH.

(E) MR. ANDRIANIRINA RALISN, CHIEF OF MARITIME FISHERIES SERVICE IN MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. EMBASSY HAS NO PERTINENT INFORMATION BUT WILL ATTEMPT DEVELOP PRIOR DEPARTURE FOR CARACAS.

2. ACCORDING TO RASOLONDRAIBE, SOURCE ABOVE LIST, MEMBERS OF MALAGASY PERMDEL NEW YORK AND EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL ALSO BE ATTENDING. EXACT NAMES AND NUMBERS STILL UNKNOWN.

3. RE STATE 67032, AMBASSADOR HAS STRESSED IN RECENT TALKS WITH BOTH AMPY PORTOS, DIRECTOR MULTILATERAL RELATIONS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND RASOLONDRAIBE NECESSITY FOR ALL PARTIES BE PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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PARED MAKE COMPROMISES IF AGREEMENTS TO BE REACHED AT CARACAS CONFERENCE.
MENDENHALL

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